

Attorney's Docket 126950-101

Serial No.: 10/417,395

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0005] The above and other features and advantages are achieved through the use of a novel soft, golf cart shield as herein disclosed. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a golf cart shield is provided that comprises a sheet of flexible, water-repellent material for covering only one side of a golf cart and at least one connector for attaching the sheet to the cart. The sheet preferably is reversible and adapted to be attached to either side of the cart. Desirably the sheet should be of transparent material. Preferably, the sheet has a stretch cord connector threaded through a tube-shaped hem attached to the top of the sheet, said cord connector adapted to be attached to a frame of the cart. In addition, the sheet preferably has a plurality of spaced grommets along a bottom portion of the sheet through which smaller stretch cords can be threaded and attached at opposite ends to the frame of said cart. Finally, the sheet preferably has strap fasteners, preferably Velcro® type VELCRO® hook and loop fastener straps, attached at various points along its perimeter to attach to strategic points on the frame of the cart.

[00012] Preferably, additional connectors are also provided as seen more clearly in FIG. 2 for securing the middle areas of the sides of the shield 12 to the cart. These additional connectors may be placed at several areas near the front edge of the sheet and may each be comprised of a short Velcro® type VELCRO® hook and loop fastener strap, straps with snaps and/or fasteners, a buckle or another tethering means 34, 36 and 38 which wraps around the metal pole of a golf cart frame. A Velcro® VELCRO® type fastener strap, strap with snaps and/or fasteners, buckle or another tethering means 40 is also provided at a middle area of the back edge of the sheet. This strap preferably is mounted in loop 42 so that the strap can be threaded back through the loop and secured after it is wrapped around a metal pole at the back of the cart.

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[00014] The golf cart shield of the present invention is easy to manufacture. In a preferred embodiment, the typical shield adapted to fit most golf carts is manufactured from a single sheet of approximately 4-mil thick, double polished clear vinyl. Starting with a sheet of such vinyl approximately 54 inches square, three triangular sections are cut from the corners of the sheet as illustrated in dashed lines in FIG. 2. A first triangular section is cut from the lower right hand corner of the sheet. The cut may be started at the bottom of the sheet approximately 8 inches from the lower right hand corner at point 44. The cut is made in a straight line diagonally to point 46 on the adjacent side of the sheet approximately 12 inches up from the lower right hand corner of the sheet. Similarly, a second triangular section is cut from the lower left-hand corner of the sheet. This cut may be started at the bottom of the sheet approximately 16 inches from the lower left-hand corner at a point 48. This cut is made in a straight line diagonally to a point 50 on the adjacent side of the sheet approximately 16 inches above the lower left-hand corner. From point 46 a third triangular section is cut from the sheet, this cut is made diagonally in a straight line to the top of the sheet at a point 52 that is approximately 5 inches from the top right-hand corner of the sheet. Thus, the typical shield can be made from a single 54-inch square sheet of vinyl. A tubular hem 22 may then be attached to the top of the sheet. Hem 22 may be constructed from a long rectangular piece of material such as vinyl, canvas, nylon or other material. In the preferred embodiment, a bungee-type cord 16 having hooks 18 and 20 at each end is preferably laid lengthwise along the rectangular piece of material and then the material is folded over the cord and attached to the top of the sheet. Alternatively, the bungee-type cord may be threaded through the hem after the hem installed on the sheet and hooks attached thereafter to each end of the cord. Also alternately, another tethering means may be supplied, in which case the hem may not need to be tubular. A plurality of ~~Velcro~~-type VELCRO® hook and loop fastener straps 34, 36, and 38 or other tethering means are preferably attached at spaced locations along a front side edge of the sheet. A loop 42 forming an opening of metal or plastic is installed mid length along a side edge at the back of the sheet and a ~~Velcro~~-type VELCRO® fastener or other strap or tether 40 is installed in the loop. Finally, a plurality of grommets 23, 24, and 25 are installed at spaced locations along a bottom edge of the sheet and a short bungee-type cord or other

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tethering means 28, 30, and 32 is installed in each grommet. Preferably, each short cord has a hook 29, 31, and 33 at the opposite end from said grommet for attachment to a frame of the cart. A nylon or other material sheet 35 may be attached to a lower portion of the sheet, for example, containing a logo, advertisement or other identification information, if desired. Accordingly, the shield of the invention is easy and inexpensive to manufacture.